

## FREE PRESS.

ISAAC H. JULIAN, - - - Editor.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1882.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

THE PROPRIETOR CONTROLS ALL ADVERTISING IN THIS PAPER ON THE INSIDE AS WELL AS THE OUTSIDE PAGES.

### Announcements of Candidates.

**State Senator.**  
**GEO. PFEUFFER**, of New Braunfels is a candidate for State Senator of the 25th Senatorial District, subject to the action of the Democratic Convention of said District.

**District Prosecuting Attorney.**  
We are authorized to announce  
**J. M. BETHANY**, of Austin County, as a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney of the 15th Judicial District.

**For Treasurer.**  
TO THE VOTERS OF HAYS COUNTY.  
We are authorized to announce **JOHN H. PATTERSON**, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Treasurer of Hays County.

We are authorized to announce **ROBERT MALONE**, as a candidate for Treasurer of Hays County.

**For Assessor.**  
We are authorized to announce  
**R. S. FORTSON**, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Assessor of Hays County.

We are authorized to announce the name of  
**A. F. BRIDGES**, of Wimberly, as a candidate for the office of Assessor of Hays Co.

**For Congress, Eighth District**  
**JAMES F. MILLER**,  
of Gonzales.

### LATE NEWS ITEMS.

The San Antonio river was very high last week, and considerable damage done in the city.

The yellow fever is raging at Pensacola, Florida, and continues at Brownsville.

Hon. Geo. P. Finlay received the nomination for Congress at the Laredo convention.

Ben Hill's disease was caused by excessive smoking. He always had a cigar in his mouth, and a sore was started which resulted in cancer of the tongue. Take warning smokers.

The Basle land and emigration company, Basle, Switzerland, have purchased three thousand two hundred acres of land near Seguin, for which they pay Jacob Miller \$25,000.

A considerable portion of the walls of the temporary capitol at Austin, fell down on Wednesday night of last week. The architect attributes the accident to the rain storm, while others charge it to imperfect construction. The matter is being investigated. The same architect is to have charge of the main capitol, which makes the case more serious.

Ben Thompson was indicted by the grand jury for murder in the first degree. The case was called for trial in the district court on Tuesday. A continuance was asked for by the defendant on the ground of the absence of important witnesses. The case was continued till December. Meantime Judge Wilson, of the court of appeals, has withdrawn his order for a new trial of Thompson on habeas corpus, and he was remanded to jail.

Hon. Geo. A. Reeves, speaker of the Texas house of representatives, met a horrible death on the 5th from hydrophobia. He was bitten by a mad dog several weeks ago. At the time he tried to apply a plaster to the wound, but it could not be made to adhere. He did not suffer an actual attack of the hydrophobia until a few days ago, when finding he was going mad he instructed his friends to lash him to his bed to prevent his harming any of them. His agony, his ravings and his frothing became horrible. All day yesterday, last night and up to the time of his death to-day his suffering and frenzy were indescribable. He expired at 1 o'clock this afternoon. He has been for years one of the most prominent men in Texas, and was a candidate for re-election to the legislature to represent Cook and Grayson counties as senator.

The editor of the Henderson, Minnesota, Independent, whose visit we noticed some weeks since, thus speaks in his paper of our town:

San Marcos is a little town of 1500 inhabitants, is beautifully located, and is the county seat of Hays county. This little town has a curiosity worthy of mention. San Marcos river rises about a mile above the town, and bursts up from the ground and from under the rocks, as crystal, and within a few feet from its source, reaches a depth of twenty feet. Before the stream reaches the town there is considerable fall, sufficient if developed to run several mills. There is already one small flouring mill on the stream. San Marcos has a bright future.

The writer's observation was limited, hence he overlooked the fact that we have four "small flouring mills" and cotton gins, already on the San Marcos river, all of them in the vicinity of the town, and there are good locations, with fine power, for as many more—large or small.

Many of the newspapers are warning their readers that they can not rely upon the truthfulness of dispatches coming from Egypt, that the telegraph lines being in the hands of the British, they send only news favorable to their side, and it does look strange that while they continue to gain victories, they continue to send reinforcements and artillery. They have a big job on their hands.

### THE FLOODS OF LAST WEEK.

#### Destruction of Life and Property.

The late fearful floods in the Northwest part of the State came near being duplicated in this and adjoining counties last week. It had been showery for a good while, but on Wednesday night the 6th inst. the rain descended in torrents most of the night, accompanied by violent winds, reminding one of equinoctial storms. The next morning the San Marcos and Purgatory were found unexpectedly high. The bath houses were swept away, and the railroad trestle work over Purgatory partially undermined. Mr. Pegues had a number of sheep drowned.

As the news came in from other places, the damages were found to be much more serious. The Blanco was found to be "booming," and fears were entertained that it might reach the devastating "high water mark" of a former period. A considerable portion of the trestle-work to the railroad bridge was washed away, and the cars were stopped at that point. The same trouble, only worse, occurred at both bridges at New Braunfels and at others beyond that place. The consequence was that we had no trains or mails till Monday of this week, and up to this writing, (Tuesday) there have been no trains from further west than New Braunfels, but our western mail has at last reached us by way of Luling. This is the first test in the way of high water that the International has experienced this side of Austin, and it has been found wanting as we have stated. We learn there was but little rain on the upper waters of the Blanco and Guadalupe; if there had been as much above as there was below, it would perhaps have undermined the main bridges, mills etc. Apropos, we learn that the bridge over the Guadalupe at Seguin, which cost \$30,000, is so damaged as to be impassable, and will have to be to a large extent rebuilt. The devastation of crops, fences, etc., in the valley of the Blanco, Guadalupe, etc., has also been very great. Many farmers have lost all or most of the results of the season's labor, besides the loss of fences and other movable property.

In the mountains, we learn that the while the destruction of property was even more general, there was added the infinitely more serious feature of the loss of human life. Five members of the family of Ben Taylor, residing on Onion Creek, consisting of himself, his wife, and two children, were drowned; the remaining members of the family, two little boys, escaped by clinging to the branches of trees. The house was on rather low ground, and before Mr. Taylor was aware the water had risen inside of it. He then went to get his horse, which was tied near by, but it was very dark and he could not find him. Returning he assisted the rest of the family to get on top of the house, but it soon drifted with the current, and went to pieces, with the result above stated. This occurred about one o'clock. If they had taken warning earlier, the family might easily have saved themselves as it was but a short distance to higher ground.

Capt. McClellan, of Dripping Springs, who keeps a record of such matters, informs us that 14 inches of water fell in twenty-four hours, nearly all of which was on Wednesday night. He says he never knew of more than twelve inches for that time before. Of course much damage was inevitable on all the mountain streams, large and small. Squire Richardson, informs us that crops and fences on Cypress creek are nearly all gone from Jacob's well down. Mr. McGonegal, Mr. Bridges and Mrs. Ragsdale are among the heaviest sufferers, though there were many others who were heavy losers. Mr. Bridges' loss is estimated at \$500. The damage to Wimberly's mill race about the same, Billy Townsend lost all he had. Mr. Wren lost 7000 rails besides those around his pasture. Mr. Leath, about the same, and many others largely as we have said.

We trust some of the first reports of damage done, may turn out to have been exaggerated. But the effects are bad enough, and this flood will long be remembered in this region.

The cities of Austin and San Antonio, now associated politically in the same district, remind us of two ill-natured curs chained together. The managers of both parties in those cities are equally at loggerheads as between themselves. Too many great men we suppose is what is the matter.

It is about 50 years since Chapman, of Indiana, became immortal by introducing the cabalistic O. K. into politics. Many were then first led to reflect how much chancier there is in human nature.

We find the above in the San Antonio Express. As a native Hoosier, we feel competent to state that it is not over 40 years since Chapman, of "Crow, Chapman crow" fame "fourished." And just what the Express means by logging in the O. K. in his case is more than we can understand; we never before heard those cabalistic signs associated with his name. Our first recollection of them is associated with a story started by the Whigs, that they were first used by Gen. Jackson when President, and interpreted by him to "stand for" "Oil Korrekt."

### Reminiscences of the Republic of Texas.

[For the Free Press.]

I came to Bastrop in January, 1840. In the town there were two steam saw mills which also had small corn mills attached to them. In the country all corn had to be ground on hand mills, called Armstrong mills. When the new corn was not too hard, then it was grated, and it made into delightful pan-cakes. About 1842, there being no money nor no trade, the two steam saw mills ceased operations and sold out. I believe Col. J. C. Higgins bought one of them, and put it up on Copperas creek, about three miles from Bastrop. Well, Mr. Higgins had a hard time of it; he had to be engineer and fireman himself; as there was no sale for corn meal, he ground that for accommodation, and there was little demand for pine lumber. I do not believe there was any cotton raised in Bastrop county in 1841. New comers consumed all the corn and pork that be could raised by the few settlers. In 1842 no emigrants came to Texas, for Texas had no money and no credit abroad.

I do not believe there was a cotton gin in Bastrop county before the fall 1842, and then probably not more than three in all Bastrop county. I remember that in 1841, when the Santa Fe expedition started, I never saw a cotton plant in West Texas. In 1843, when I returned to Texas again, the cotton planters sent their largest share of cotton on pine log rafts down the Colorado river to Matagorda, where the rafts were sold for house building (there being no pine in the lower country) and the cotton sold—for cash? No, but exchanged for goods and sugar, the latter raised on the cany lands. But little cotton was then sent by ox teams to Houston. In summer 1843, I was also employed in one of these raft cotton exportation enterprises, that is I drove the horses belonging to the men managing the raft, so that they could return after arriving at seaport, (?) Matagorda. My wages I was to receive in sugar. I went certain distances, as far as the manager thought the raft could reach by river; there I had to camp, cook my supplies, and feed—that is to stake out the men's horses on grass over night. Next morning I started on again. After I got 20 miles below La Grange, the manager overhauled me, said that the raft stalled (grounded below the rapids of La Grange) and that all hands had to return to Bastrop till the river took another rise. I then hired to pull fodder, got sick, and could no further wait to accompany our craft, or wait for a rise of Colorado. Cotton then was only worth 6 cents a pound, for we had to pay export duty to the United States, and had no commerce with Europe, neither did we get coin for our cotton. A cow and calf was only worth five dollars, that is nominally; we had only Texas currency, worth also 50 cents on a dollar. Strange as this may all appear to the present population, they will laugh when I state that on Christmas day of 1843, Mr. Jas. Nicholson gave a Christmas ball, the entrance was a cow and calf, and people came to it from Austin and La Grange, all on horseback; buggies or coaches, we had none then. Well Mr. Nicholson managed to get coffee from La Grange, sugar from Matagorda, pork, mutton and beef, eggs and butter; we had plenty anyhow, and the wheat being ground on ordinary corn mills was sifted through cast off muslin dresses, (ladies think of it) stretched over a hoop.

But the reader cannot imagine how we enjoyed that party, (for they were few and far between them.) I had not even a cow and calf to contribute, but Mr. Nicholson being my former guardian, I being left an orphan in Bastrop, he invited me to it.

That Christmas day began bright and pleasant, but by midnight one of these cold blasting northerns sprang up; there was no hotel or boarding house to put up at, therefore we had to sit up all night by good fires, having to pass time by singing songs and telling yarns. Next morning our host provided us with a bountiful breakfast, and it being a clear cold day, all parties left for their respective homes. Such was Texas on Christmas 1843.

C. ERHARD.

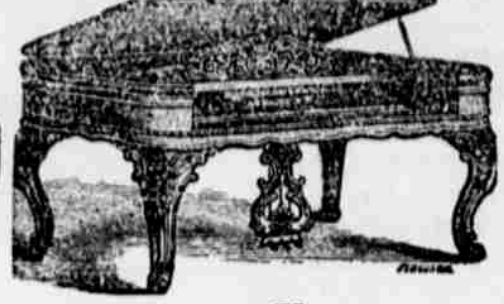
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The Piano will be on exhibition at the warehouses of Messrs. Hazzard, Raymond & Co., after September 1st, 1882. We invite our friends and patrons to call on us and examine our stock of Wheelock Pianos and satisfy themselves as to the merit of the instruments. Very Respectfully,

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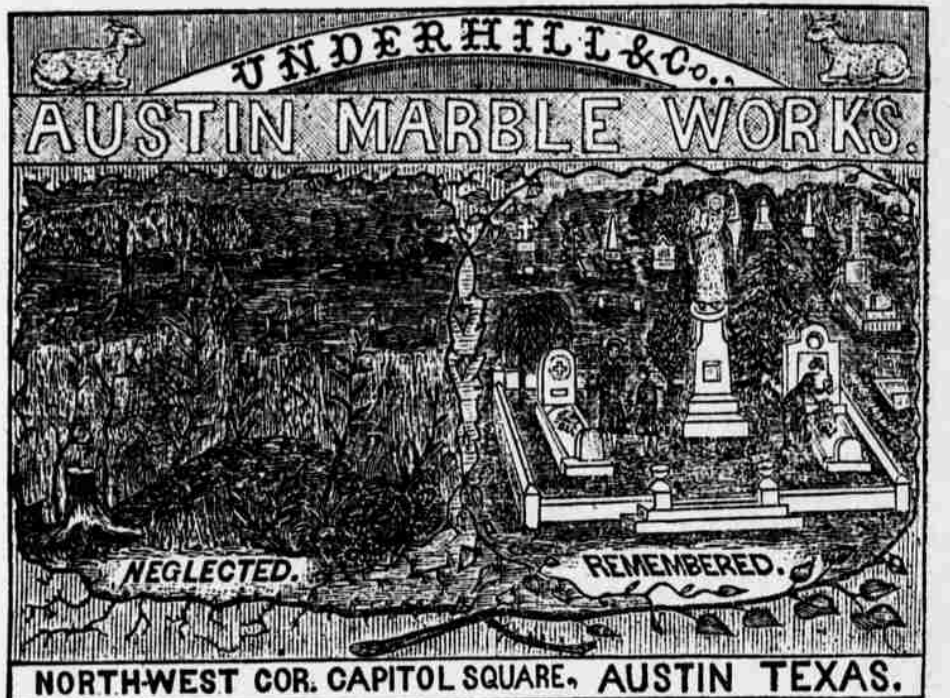
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